

House File 2499 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2499
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 706)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including requiring the boards of
2 directors of school districts to publish certain specified
3 information and modifying provisions related to required
4 social studies instruction.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY

Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

257.17 Aid reduction for early school starts.

1. State aid payments made pursuant to [section 257.16](#) for a fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for each day of that fiscal year for which the school district begins school before the earliest school start date specified in [section 279.10, subsection 1](#).

2. ~~This section does~~ Subsection 1 shall not apply to a school district attendance center that has received approval from the department of education under section 279.10, subsection 2, to maintain a year-round school calendar that commences classes in advance of the school start date established in [section 279.10, subsection 1](#). The department of management shall prorate the reduction made pursuant to ~~this section subsection 1~~ to account for an attendance center in a school district that is approved to maintain a year-round school calendar under [section 279.10, subsection 2](#).

3. State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a fiscal year shall be reduced by the department of education for each day of that fiscal year for which the school district has been found to have intentionally violated a provision of section 279.76. The department of education shall reduce the state aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a fiscal year in an amount the department of education determines is in proportion to the actual damages caused by the school district's violation of section 279.76.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **279.76 Transparency and state standards.**

1. The board of directors of each school district shall publish all of the following information related to the current school year prominently on the school district's internet site:

a. A course syllabus or written summary of what material

1 will be taught in each class in the school district, sortable
2 by subject area, grade level, and teacher.

3 *b.* How each class in the school district meets or exceeds
4 the educational standards established pursuant to section
5 256.11, sortable by subject area, grade level, and teacher.

6 *c.* The titles of all textbooks, books, articles, videos,
7 and other educational materials used for student instruction
8 in each class in the school district, or links to the internet
9 sites containing such textbooks, books, articles, or other
10 educational materials.

11 *d.* The procedures or policies in effect for the
12 documentation, review, and approval of all textbooks, books,
13 articles, outlines, handouts, presentations, videos, and other
14 educational materials used for student instruction. This shall
15 include the procedures or policies applicable to the board of
16 directors of the school district, principals, administrators,
17 teachers, and any committee created by the board of directors,
18 an administrator, or a principal.

19 *e.* A comprehensive list of all books available to students
20 in libraries operated by the school district.

21 *f.* A flowchart developed by the department of education
22 showing the procedures or policies in effect for the parent
23 or guardian of a student enrolled in the school district to
24 request the removal of a book that is available to students in
25 a library operated by the school district.

26 2. *a.* The board of directors of each school district shall
27 update the information required to be published pursuant to
28 subsection 1 on or before August 23 and on or before January 15
29 of each school year.

30 *b.* The board of directors of each school district shall
31 notify parents and guardians that the information required
32 to be published pursuant to subsection 1 has been updated by
33 publishing notice on the school district's internet site and
34 providing notice in a newsletter or other written communication
35 that is distributed to parents and guardians.

1 3. The board of directors of each school district shall
2 maintain the information required to be published pursuant to
3 subsection 1 for at least five years on the school district's
4 internet site in a manner that is accessible to the public.

5 4. This section shall not be construed to require the board
6 of directors of a school district to do any of the following:

7 a. Reproduce educational materials that were not created by
8 a teacher employed by the board of directors.

9 b. Distribute any educational materials in a manner that
10 would infringe on the intellectual property rights of any
11 person.

12 5. For purposes of this section, unless the context
13 otherwise requires, "*used for student instruction*" means
14 that a textbook, book, article, syllabus, outline, handout,
15 presentation, video, or other educational material meets any of
16 the following criteria:

17 a. Is or will be assigned, distributed, or otherwise
18 presented to students in a class required pursuant to section
19 256.11.

20 b. Is or will be assigned, distributed, or otherwise
21 presented to students as required by the board of directors of
22 the school district.

23 c. Is or will be created by the board of directors of the
24 school district or a teacher employed by the board.

25 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **279.77 Protocols for the selection,**
26 **review, reconsideration, and removal of materials from libraries.**

27 The board of directors of a school district shall adopt
28 protocols for the selection, review, reconsideration, and
29 removal of materials from libraries operated by the school
30 district. The protocols shall require all of the following:

31 1. A process for the selection, reconsideration, and
32 removal of materials from libraries operated by the school
33 district.

34 2. The lawful and ethical use of information resources,
35 including plagiarism and intellectual property rights.

1 3. A process that allows the parent or guardian of a student
2 enrolled in the school district to request the reconsideration
3 or removal of materials from a library operated by the school
4 district. The process shall require all of the following:

5 a. Within ten business days after a parent's or guardian's
6 submission of a request to reconsider or remove materials from
7 a library operated by the school district, or on or before a
8 later date, if the school district and the parent or guardian
9 agree in writing, the school district shall conduct a review
10 of the materials described in the request and respond to the
11 parent or guardian in writing with notice of the disposition of
12 the request for reconsideration or removal.

13 b. The parent or guardian may request that the board of
14 directors of the school district review the school district's
15 disposition of the request described in paragraph "a". The
16 board of directors of the school district shall act on the
17 request to review the school district's disposition of the
18 request described in paragraph "a" at the next regularly
19 scheduled meeting of the board of directors of the school
20 district but no later than twenty business days after the
21 board of directors of the school district receives the request
22 to review the disposition, or on or before a later date, if
23 the board of directors of the school district and the parent
24 or guardian agree in writing. The board of directors of the
25 school district shall respond to the parent or guardian's
26 request for review of the school district's disposition by
27 affirming or reversing the school district's decision.

28 c. The parent or guardian may appeal the decision of the
29 board of directors of the school district under paragraph "b" to
30 the state board of education pursuant to section 290.1.

31 d. If a school district or the board of directors of a
32 school district fails to act on a parent's or guardian's
33 request to reconsider or remove materials from a library
34 operated by the school district within the timelines provided
35 in this section, the parent or guardian may appeal the school

1 district's or the board of directors of a school district's
 2 failure to the state board of education. The state board
 3 of education may direct the school district or the board
 4 of directors of a school district to perform the review as
 5 prescribed and take any other actions applicable in case of
 6 noncompliance with state or federal education laws pursuant to
 7 section 256.11, subsection 10, paragraph "c".

8 Sec. 4. FLOWCHART. The department of education shall create
 9 a flowchart that shows the procedure for a parent or guardian
 10 of a student enrolled in a school district to request the
 11 removal of a book that is available to students in a library
 12 operated by the school district as required by section 279.76,
 13 as enacted by this division of this Act. The department of
 14 education shall provide the flowchart to all school districts.

15 DIVISION II

16 SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION

17 Sec. 5. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
 18 2022, is amended to read as follows:

19 **b. (1)** Five units of the social studies including
 20 instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter
 21 registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting
 22 systems in the election process, and the method of acquiring
 23 and casting an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a
 24 minimum of one-half unit of United States government and one
 25 unit of United States history.

26 **(2)** The one-half unit of United States government shall
 27 include ~~the~~ all of the following:

28 **(a)** The voting procedure as described in this lettered
 29 paragraph and **section 280.9A**. ~~The government instruction shall~~
 30 ~~also include a~~

31 **(b)** A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
 32 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment
 33 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
 34 Rights.

35 **(c) (i)** An assessment of the student's knowledge of

1 United States government and civics that includes the nature,
 2 purpose, structure, function, and history of the United States
 3 government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens of
 4 the United States, and important United States government and
 5 civic leaders. The most recent version of the civics test
 6 developed by the United States citizenship and immigration
 7 services shall be used as the assessment required by this
 8 subparagraph division. On or before June 30 of each year, each
 9 school district and nonpublic school shall submit the results
 10 of the assessment required by this subparagraph division to the
 11 department.

12 (ii) The school district or nonpublic school may modify
 13 the civics test developed by the United States citizenship and
 14 immigration services for a student who has an individualized
 15 education program.

16 (iii) A student shall answer at least seventy percent of
 17 the questions on the civics test developed by the United States
 18 citizenship and immigration services correctly as a condition
 19 of graduation. A student who fails to answer at least seventy
 20 percent of the questions on the civics test correctly may
 21 retake the civics test as many times as necessary.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to education, including requiring the
 26 boards of directors of school districts to publish certain
 27 specified information and modifying provisions related to
 28 required social studies instruction.

29 DIVISION I — SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY. The bill
 30 creates new Code section 279.76, which requires the board of
 31 directors of each school district to publish on the school
 32 district's internet site a syllabus or written summary of what
 33 material will be taught in each class in the school district,
 34 how each class in the school district meets or exceeds the
 35 educational standards established pursuant to Code section

1 256.11, information related to all educational materials used
2 for student instruction in each class in the school district,
3 the procedures for the review and approval of all educational
4 materials used for student instruction, a list of all books
5 available to students in libraries operated by the school
6 district, and a flowchart developed by the department of
7 education showing the procedures for the parent or guardian
8 of a student enrolled in the school district to request the
9 removal of a book that is available to students in a library
10 operated by the school district. The bill also requires the
11 board of directors to update this information periodically and
12 notify parents and guardians that the information has been
13 updated. The bill provides that the board of directors shall
14 maintain this information for at least five years on the school
15 district's internet site.

16 The bill provides that state aid payments made pursuant
17 to Code section 257.16 for a fiscal year shall be reduced in
18 an amount determined by the department of education for each
19 day of that fiscal year for which the school district has been
20 found to have intentionally violated a provision of new Code
21 section 279.76. The bill provides that the department shall
22 make the reduction in an amount the department determines
23 is in proportion to the actual damages caused by the school
24 district's violation of new Code section 279.76.

25 The bill requires the board of directors of a school district
26 to adopt protocols for the selection, review, reconsideration,
27 and removal of materials from libraries operated by the
28 school district. The bill establishes what the protocols
29 shall require, which includes a process for the selection,
30 reconsideration, and removal of materials from libraries
31 operated by the school district, the lawful and ethical use of
32 information resources, including plagiarism and intellectual
33 property rights, and a process that allows the parent or
34 guardian of a student enrolled in the school district to
35 request the reconsideration or removal of materials from a

1 library operated by the school district.

2 DIVISION II — SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION. Under current
3 law, the educational program established pursuant to Code
4 section 256.11 is required to include, in grades 9 through 12,
5 five units of social studies, one-half unit of which is to
6 consist of instruction in United States government. The bill
7 provides that this one-half unit of United States government
8 shall include an assessment of the student's knowledge of
9 United States government and civics. The bill provides that
10 the most recent version of the civics test developed by the
11 United States citizenship and immigration services shall be
12 used as the assessment. The bill requires each school district
13 and nonpublic school to submit the results of the civics test
14 to the department of education by June 30 of each year. The
15 bill authorizes a school district or nonpublic school to
16 modify the civics test for a student who has an individualized
17 education program. The bill provides that a student must
18 answer at least 70 percent of the questions correctly on the
19 civics test as a condition of graduation. The bill authorizes
20 a student who fails to answer at least 70 percent of the
21 questions on the civics test correctly to retake the civics
22 test.